

CAROLINE COUNTY
PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION PROJECTS
FISCAL YEAR 2016

Prepared and submitted in accordance with state mandates and guidelines as documented in the Program Open Space Grants Manual. This Annual Program conforms to the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan and the 2011 Caroline County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.

September 1, 2015



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Local Liaison Officer, Caroline County
Program Open Space



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Caroline County Annual Program Plan Program Open Space

Introduction

The 2015-2016 Annual Program reflects Caroline County's continued commitment to direct POS projects in or near the county's incorporated and unincorporated towns. Approximately 67% of the county's estimated 32,900 residents live in unincorporated areas. In order to enhance the market appeal of living near population centers, recreation facilities must be located strategically to improve the quality of life in population centers and preserve the government's ability to preserve the rural landscape.

This strategy also reflects the county's commitment to the State's 1992 Planning Act. Each of the projects submitted generally supports one or more of the Maryland Planning Act tenants, particularly as the project relates to "concentrating development in suitable areas" and "directing growth to population centers." Protecting sensitive areas and demonstrating stewardship of the bay and the land are also functions of the projects proposed, but more limited in their applications because of state and local funding limitations.

All of the proposed projects are consistent with the 2011 Caroline County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan was amended into the County Comprehensive plan in September 2011 by the Caroline County Commissioners.

The projects incorporated into this plan are based on the following factors:

1. The project's inclusion in previous annual program plans.
2. Represents a specific request for funds by a municipal governing authority.
3. Previous performance and current status of Program Open Space supported projects within the municipality.
4. Project's general consistency with municipal, county and state plans.
5. Balance of project allocations among county and municipal interests.
6. Balance of Program Open Space allocations among the three geographic regions of the county.
7. Level of grass roots political, and in some cases, private funding support for a particular project.

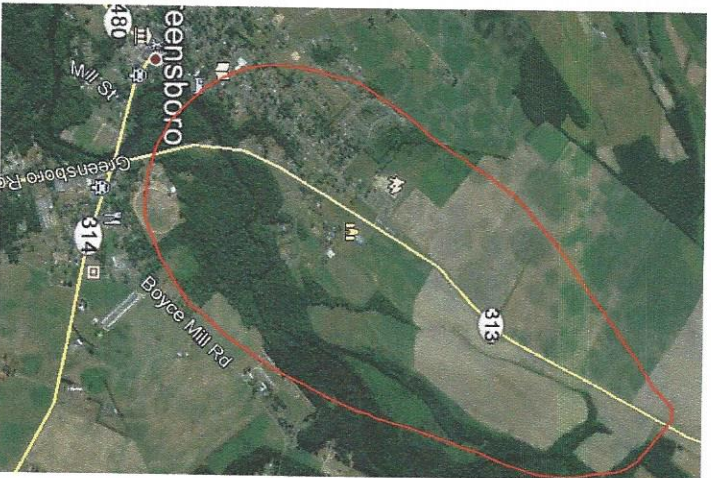
Granted, the plan submitted surpasses the grant funding resources available. Thus in reality, this document reflects two to three years of Program Open Space supported action. The specific projects completed within this fiscal year are extremely sensitive to the availability of local matching funds, the project development speed within the Department of Recreation and Parks and the local municipalities, and the political support for particular projects.

Caroline County Annual Program Plan, FY 2016
Program Open Space Project Descriptions
Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

CC - 1 Regional Park Expansion, North County Area

Given the limited local allocation of POS funds, Caroline County intends to designate an annual share of its land acquisition dollars over 4-6 years to achieve this goal. The residential development pressure in the Town of Greensboro in addition to the future impact of a north county water and sewer system makes the present the best time to secure parkland for open space preservation and future active recreation development. Land attributes desired include proximity to existing incorporated towns, potentials of public access to natural resources (waterways), a balance of forested and cleared areas, proximity to state highways and existing public open space (red outline)

This project relates directly to goal #6 (acquisition and park development) and #7 (recreation and open space in support of designated growth centers). The land attributes preferred certainly mirror Vision 1 and 3, but if we can acquire land in proximity to Bay tributaries, we will address Vision 2 (sensitive area protection) and Vision 4 (Chesapeake Bay Stewardship) as well.



CC - 2 Cedar Lane Park (Cedar Lane Road within Town of Greensboro)

This 5-acre park was acquired in April, 1991 and is located in the incorporated town of Greensboro. The park is comprised of a Senior League baseball field, parking area, dugouts and a concession stand.

The county and town will continue its collaboration in the improvement of the Ober Community Park to relocate repurposed playground equipment to expand family play opportunities at Cedar Lane during league and pick-up ball play (yellow Highlight). The County and the Town of Greensboro will also collaborate on a long-term lease and potential future acquisition a nearby 2- acre parcel for a temporary soccer/multipurpose field to reduce the use-conflicts associated with the existing Ober Community Park and outfield multipurpose use at Cedar Lane facility (red outline).



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CC - 3 South County Regional Park and Athletic Complex

Caroline Tax Map 54: Parcel 88 (Sieppes and American Corner Roads)



The development phases will be extensively phased given the limited allocation of funds for any capital projects in the last five fiscal years. The multipurpose project already supports league play for soccer and lacrosse. Eventually it will support athletic league play for over 1,500 youth and serve a population of over 7,500 citizens.

Engineering for Phase II and III will focus on the development of several youth and adult baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, walking paths, playgrounds, a concession stand and a parks maintenance facility. This project responds directly to the 2011 LPPRP goal #7 to establish regional parks centrally located to the growth areas of the county. The development proposed will be phased over a period of 8 to 12 years.

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Program Open Space Project Descriptions
Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

CC-4 Ridgley Athletic Field Complex
(Tax Map 22; parcel 2)

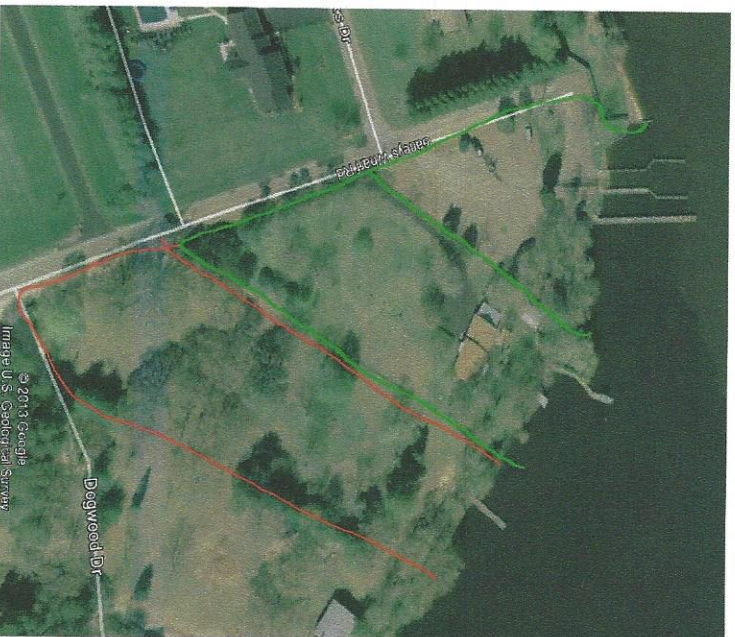
The complex represents a partnership between the Town, County and the Ridgely Little League Organization to develop a sports complex to address regional community needs. The need for additional active recreation facilities is identified clearly in the 2011 Caroline County Recreation & Land Preservation Plan. Although this project was initially envisioned as an opportunity to meet the baseball field needs of a growing local league operation, it became clear that the most effective way to meet the community needs was to look broader to future facility demands and interests. To date the 30-acre parcel includes three baseball fields, parking areas, concession facilities and a multipurpose field. The next phase is the installation of three phase electric for future field lighting, 2-3 multipurpose fields and additional park and landscaping.



CC-5 Ganey's Wharf Park

Ganey's Wharf Park is a 1.22-acre acquisition adjacent to an existing half-acre water access facility owned by Caroline County. The additional acreage will allow the development of a passive park, as well as the additional water access for non-motorized watercraft (green lines)

This park re-development will eventually allow for significant improvements to collection and natural filtration of storm water run-off and expanded community park amenities. Current residential property is being leased with net revenue collected in an escrow account for future grant match and capital improvements at site. Future land acquisition opportunities (red line) are very prospective.



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CC-6 Village of Choptank Park and Nature Area
 (Caroline Tax Map 58: p.4)

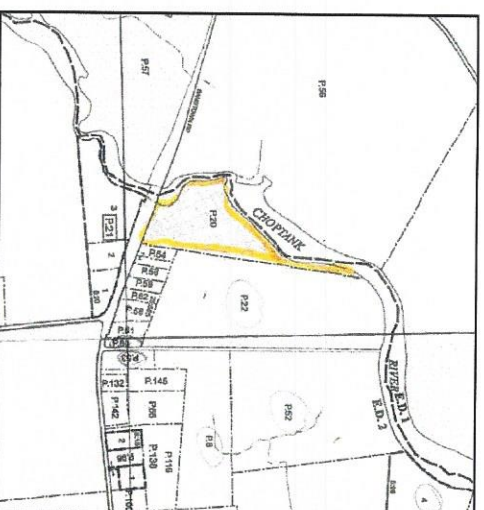
This 12.6 acre parcel is located 3 miles south of Preston, adjacent to the village of Choptank and the county-owned Choptank marina and the public boat ramp—one of five water access points on the Choptank River within the county. The parcel builds on an existing POS funded acquisition in 1998 to establish an auxiliary parking lot for the marina recreation area.

The next POS supported phase includes the completion of a Master Plan and the phased development of a trail system around the dredge disposal berm – an earth dam that contains the sediment removed from the marina basin and other boat ramp basin in the mid-shore region to maintain public boating access. The park's proximity to Poplar Neck Creek and the designation of this bridge terminus on the Network to Freedom trail prompts park designers to also accommodate tourism access and interpretation at the site.



CC-7 Sandtown Bridge Trail Access (Caroline Tax Map 11; p.20)

One acre alongside the renovated SHA Bridge crossing between Goldsboro and the Delaware communities could serve as a seasonal public access point for small craft boated to the Upper Choptank. The reconstruction of the bridge eliminated the informal public access point. Project is consistent with the LPPRP Plan recommendation to increase public waterway access points to Bay tributaries. If successful, the project would also be eligible for state transportation BY Way and trail development funds.



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Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

CC-8 Jonestown Community Park

(Caroline Tax Map 59: p. 37 & 78)

In 1987, Caroline County established a small neighborhood playground in Jonestown; an unincorporated African American community located 2 miles north of Preston. The ¼ acre lot was inadequate to respond to the community's need for recreation facilities, but it was a start. With the support of the Jonestown Community Development Corporation, the county successfully acquired two adjoining lots in 2005 to increase the public parklands to 3.75 acres and is ready to begin the first phase of planning and development in partnership with the Development Corporation and local citizens. Although the master plan is not finalized, recreation amenities will likely include walking trails, picnic pavilion, paved playing court surfaces and improved playground facilities.

The project is consistent with the 2011 LPPRP as reflected in recommendations #6 (acquisition and park development), #5 (strengthening partnerships); and it exemplifies the Smart Growth



Vision 1: development concentrated in suitable areas and #3: directing growth to existing populations centers.

CC-9 Hillsboro Boat Ramp

(Caroline County Tax Map 021A: Parcels 708, 709 and 710)

Two waterfront lots adjoin an existing boat ramp that has served as a key public access point on the upper Tuckahoe River south of Tuckahoe State park. The lots represent .43 acres and were acquired in 2013 (green lines). The next phase is landscape and shoreline stabilization to preserve project and improve quality of storm water run-off. Future acquisition targets include parcel to the north pending interest of property owner (red line). The Park is featured on the Harriet Tubman Byway Trail currently.



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CC-10 Martin Sutton Park Capital Reconstruction
 (Caroline County Tax Map 0700: Parcel 684)

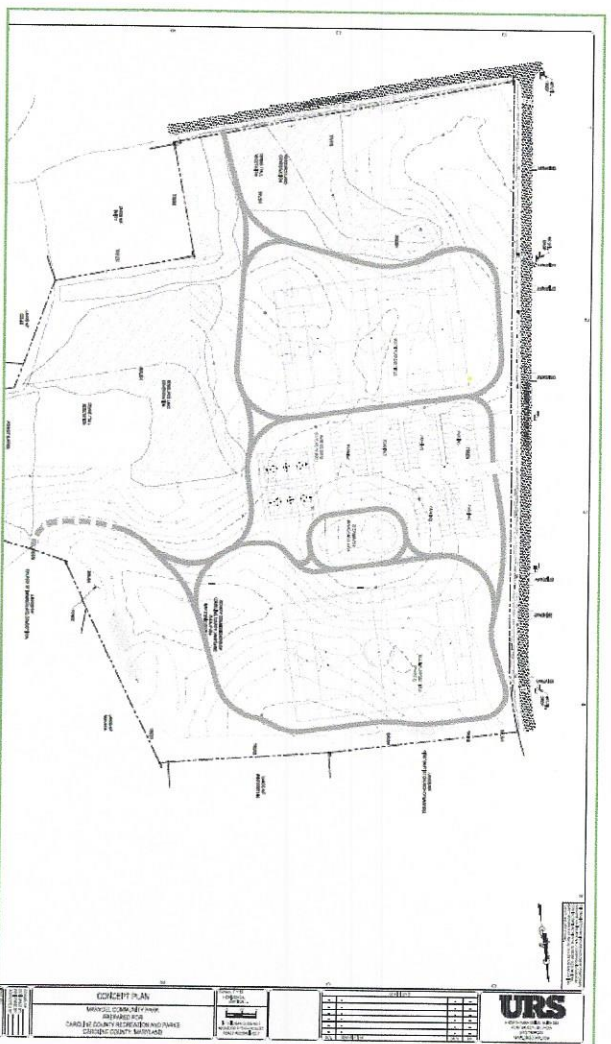
This park consists of 24.4 acres and includes a three-court tennis complex, basketball court, walking trails, sport fields and playground – it is a place that serves as a regional destination and is a backdrop for local festivals and sporting events.

FY2014 plans include collaboration with the Town to improve playground surfacing and ADA accessibility of current playground, and pave the surface of existing walking pathways along park perimeter (yellow highlights). The project is consistent with Smart planning principals because of the enhancement of an existing facility within an incorporated town



CC-11 Maryland Community Park (County Tax Map 2; parcel 18)

Proposed phase one of the anticipated community park development to serve the 1,500 citizens around the north county small towns. Construction includes design for three multipurpose fields and public access amenities such as parking, utilities and trail access from incorporated town limits. The construction of one field with access road and defined parking anticipated within the fiscal year can be leveraged to include a natural playground area, accessible trail connections to population area and conservation areas with benefits that extend beyond the park property. The project is consistent with the LPPRP and the State Planning Visions, and is within the jurisdictional limits of the Town of Maryland.



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CC-12 Day Spring Community Park (county tax Map 22B; parcel 189)

It has been 20 years since the development of the neighborhood playground that now serves 46 families in the workforce housing complex located across the street. The drainage issues in one segment of the existing playground eliminate public uses for several days after each storm and the pedestrian access and traffic issues along School Street and the neighborhood's potential intersection via pedestrian pathways to the municipal Martin Sutton Park within the Town of Ridgely are opportunities to make significant improvements at the site with a relatively small investment of resources.

The lot adjoining the site represents a potential acquisition opportunity to expand the neighborhood recreation elements at the site and permanently address the park drainage issues.



CC-13 Sharp Road Community Park (county tax Map 105; parcel 2292)

This park consists of 20 acres of open space with on entrance road and a paved basketball court. It is located across from Denton Elementary School and is within the Denton Town Limits. The land was secured as a future community park with POS funds in 1994.

Local POS funds will be invested into the construction design and bid documents necessary to develop two regulation multipurpose fields and the parking and infrastructure support facilities to maintain grass turf fields. Given the significance of the project to the Town of Denton and the regional demand the multipurpose fields will address, the county will also actively partner with the Town and the Choptank Athletic Association to compete for Community Park and Playground funds to complete the project.



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Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

Land Acquisition Projects			Acreage			Source of Funds			
Reference #	Sponsor	Project Name & Location	Existing	Ultimate	This Project	Local	State	Federal	Total
CC-1	County	Regional Community Park	0	205	205	25,000	775,000	775,000	1,550,000
CC-5	County	Ganey's Warf Park	2.24	3.5	1.1	10,000	200,000		210,000
CC-7	County	Sandtown Bridge Water trial Access		1	1		35,000		35,000
CC-9	County	Hillsboro Boat Ramp	.78	1.2	.40		55,000		55,000
CC-12	County	Day Spring Community Park	.38	.88	.5		18,000		18,000
POS Acquisition Fund Totals			3.4	211.58	208	35,000	1,083,000	775,000	1,868,000

Park Development Projects			Source of Funds					
Reference #	Sponsor	Project Name & Location	Project Acreage	Local	State	Federal	Other	Total
CC-2	County	Cedar Lane	5	1,000	3,000			4,000
CC-3	County	South County (SCRIP)	72	200,000	600,000			800,000
CC-8	County	Lonestown Community Park	3.75	10,000	30,000			40,000
CC-4	Municipal/County	Ridgely Athletic Field Complex	35		375,000		125,000	500,000
CC-5	County	Ganey's Warf	1.22		25,000	550,000	25,000	600,000
CC-6	County	Village of Choptank Nature Area	12.63	5,000	15,000		20,000	40,000
CC-10	County	Martin Sutton Park	24.4	7000	21,000			28,000

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CC-11	County	Marydel Community Park	23.4	12,000	36,000			48,000
CC-12	County	Dayspring Community Park	.88	12,000	36,000		12,000	60,000
CC-13	County/Town	Sharp Road Community Park	20		15,000		5,000	20,000
POS Development Fund Total			198.28	247,000	1,156,000	550,000	187,000	2,140,000
Pos Acquisition & Development Fund Needs								
								4,008,000